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Senate Approves Senator Hardiman's Resolution Supporting Ryan White CARE Act for HIV/AIDS Victims

LANSING — The Michigan Senate recently approved a resolution sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman that would encourage Congress to approve the Ryan White CARE Act, which supports programs for people with HIV and AIDS.

Congress is considering renewing legislation that provides comprehensive care for the neediest victims of HIV and AIDS. Hardiman said he is concerned about the spread of HIV and AIDS, particularly among young people and in minority communities.

"With the AIDS population changing it is great to see this money being shared with the diverse communities in need of this funding," Hardiman said.

The resolution states, in part, "Children and young people infected with HIV and living with AIDS have unique needs for specialized medical services and psychosocial support. Programs funded under the Ryan White CARE Act successfully deliver family-centered, coordinated health care and support services for women, children, youth and families. These programs have played a significant role in reducing the number of mother-to-child HIV infections from 2,000 to fewer than 200 per year."

According to the resolution, more than 9,000 children younger than 13 are living with HIV and AIDS in the United States while 15 percent of new HIV infections are among people younger than 25. Among the cases of new infections in people aged 13 to 19, 58 percent are women.

Copies of the resolution now will be sent to the state's congressional delegation, and leaders in the U.S. House and Senate.

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